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clivity of New York are in earnest. We applaud them, for they are engaged on one of the most tasks of either war or peace; and we humbly urge upon them the importance of being in earnest not only now, when spring sounds the assault upon the willing earth, but later when the July sun inculcates the weeds with hellish vigor and at the same time breathes the neck of the gardener.

Every man with ground can plant something and cultivate it in the joyous vernal weeks, but he is a hero who sticks to the wheel hoe in the dog days when the silver puffs at the door and the bass are notoriously biting in cool ponds. He is a hero who refuses to content himself with the cultivation of a little plot of lettuce, peas and those other feeble foods that grace the summer table. The growing season is only four months; the eating season is twelve. The gardening grasshopper eats the tomato warm from the vine and rejoices. The ant eats also, but he can eat three more, besides taking a lot of the winter roots, earthwise displaced, for storage. A head of blanched lettuce is an artistic triumph, but thirty cans of string beans on the cellar shelf is an economic victory. Sweet is the slender scallion in May, but horsey for a bushel of onions in February!

It is a good thing for everybody who can go into gardening. He is sure of some reward, whether it be in pocket, in health or the acquisition of patience. It is the only gambling game where a return of twenty for one may be had on an even money shot. Pushing a wheel hoe for an hour is as good as eighteen holes at golf and there are no club dues to pay. Weeding beets is as good as the setting up drill at Plattsburg. Mapping a rotation of crops requires skill which a Nirelle might envy. No trench digger works harder than an enthusiast with a spading fork.

It's a good game. If you have ground that is fit for growing things and your country has no greater call on your time, get into the effort to make the land surrender something. Every lima bean you grow is a contribution to the world's needs.

The Emperor's Reply.

In an official way it was not necessary for the Imperial German Government to take notice of the war resolution adopted by the American Congress. Silence in Berlin for several days was a confession of the charge made that Germany in sinking American ships without warning in the "barred zone" had been waging war upon the United States. A declaration of hostilities by the Imperial Government would now be superfluous, an empty formality. There may yet be a characteristic entry on the record, but foolish would be the assumption that the Germans intend to let us do all the fighting because word has come from Berlin that no official reply will be made to the President's address and the proceedings of Congress.

As a matter of fact, the Kaiser has already taken notice of President Wilson's history making address. The instructions to Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg to draw up a scheme of political reforms to be put in operation after the war will bear no other construction. A sop has been thrown to the Social Democrats. Not without significance is Wilhelm's intimation that through the reforms to be instituted he expects to remain "thereby on the road where my grandfather, the founder of the empire, as King of Prussia with military organization and as German Emperor with social reform, typically fulfilled his monarchical obligations."

The present Emperor is not so sure of the acquiescence and complacency of his subjects as he affects to feel, and he knows that he runs a grave risk in postponing reform until after the war, as Nicholas of Russia did under advice of the bureaucracy.

Enlisting Mr. Bryan for the War.

Mr. Bryan, who is more than 57 years of age and looks it, has asked the President in a telegram from Tallahassee to enroll him "as a private" whenever he may be needed.

Mr. Bryan adds: "Assign me to any work that I can do until called to the colors." Far be it from The Sun to make light of any offer of service in the war now upon us, whether it come from ardent youth or a veteran pacifist. Mr. Bryan is welcome.

When such a volunteer hits the trail it is legitimate, in fact a duty, to capitalize his influence for the advancement of the worldwide cause to which the United States is now devoting its resources. The President should lose no time in putting Mr. Bryan to work, as he requests with unmistakable earnestness. Mr. Bryan is now, as he has been for more than twenty years, the most eloquent man in the country. He has a very large personal following. The number of his friends is legion.

We say it with the utmost seriousness that Mr. Bryan would make the most successful recruiting officer in the country. The people would flock to his meetings. When we speak of Mr. Bryan as a recruiting officer our meaning is not limited to the organization of men to be soldiers. Universal training may or may not be decided on. What Mr. Bryan can do, perhaps better than any other public man, is to mobilize his fellow citizens in the West for service in the war, each according to his capacity and possessions. He should preach the gospel of unselfish patriotism.

There is work to be done at the rear as well as at the front, in the factory, in the mine and on the farm, as well as in the trenches. What a theme Mr. Bryan would have! He would be more eloquent than ever and

worth a division in the field. We think that it is Mr. Wilson's duty to ask him to be a rallying force.

Improvements Must Go On.

It is gratifying to learn from the chairman of the Public Service Commission, Mr. STRAUS, that the war instead of delaying subway work will rather advance it through the adjustment of labor difficulties that threatened. Chairman STRAUS holds out the pleasant prospect that the Seventh avenue tube, from the Battery to Times Square, and the Lexington avenue tube, from Grand Central station to The Bronx, will be in operation within six months. This will mean the doubling of subway facilities in Manhattan; a line for the East Side as well as the West. The congestion on the longest, most important rapid transit route will be relieved in October.

The war should impose no delay, no scrapping on really important public works like the subway. We are in for economy, for stoppage of waste, but not for cutting out necessary expenditures. Money spent on needed labor is not hoarded, but returns almost entirely to circulation. The great nations at war have continued to make necessary internal improvements when men are available. Sometimes they have appeared to create employment to take up the slack in certain industries. This will not be necessary here. It is likely; but America must not let her civic development stop in any vital quarter. Economy means the abandonment of extravagance, not the discharge of men and the hiding of money.

Mr. Mitchell's Position.

The pacifists who are planning to attack conscription and other military legislation in Congress are asking the fifty members who voted against the resolutions of Congress to live to regret their action. The two men in the delegation who voted "aye" already loom bigger than the nine.

It was no more a sign of weakness for Miss RANKIN to weep, if she did, than it was for Congressman KIRCHIN to weep.—Mrs. CARBIE CHAPMAN CATT.

There is no doubt that the Hon. JAMES RANKIN did weep, which was quite natural. Mr. CLARENCE KIRCHIN has a romantic Christian name, but he is too big for tears. It is ungenerous of Mrs. CATT to drag him in because his voice faltered when, to quote the late JERRY RUSK, he "saw his duty and done it."

A man who fails to rise or uncover when "The Star Spangled Banner" is played is pretty sure to see a whole firmament of stars and think that chaos has come again.

We should locate the enemy and go where he is.—Representative QUINN of Mississippi.

A historic utterance by a sturdy American who records the fact in a Congressional biography that his parents were "both native born Mississippians."

We do not know whether Yale, Princeton or Harvard is doing more for preparedness than any other Eastern or Western college, but let the good work go on. In our numerous colored institutions throughout the country America has a reserve for the making of officers which no other country on earth can boast.

It is impossible for any Christian nation not to be at war with Germany.—EDITH WHITMAN.

The President's 5,000 word speech condensed to a sentence by a woman.

Dr. FRANKLIN, for many years head of the Hampton Institute for the education of negroes and Indians, says of the reports of German intrigues among colored men: "Certainly no other race coming from a foreign soil can be compared with negroes in their loyalty to this country." The amazing thing has been that any one could be found credulous enough to believe in the spreading of German intrigue among this loyal people.

The Piper.

The piper blows the piper blows down. Through all the streets of Vernal Town. Who is the piper? I have heard Her name is April—lyric word!

She bids you dance across the hills With crocuses and daffodils And join the robin revels. The blithe abandon of the best!

She summons you from every slope With her alluring call of hope. For hope it is that seems to stir The wild, persuasive heart of her!

Across the dawn, across the dark. You hear her piping. Mark, oh, mark! Is there a mortal ear that knows The piper lovelier than April blows?

CLARENCE ROLLAND.

St. Cecilia's Bird.

Of wind whirled past. All patterned o'er with arbutus And violets darkly blue. The wood thrush on a mossy bough Bill jewelled with the rain In ecstasy immortal trills.

The rapturous refrain: "Cecilia!"

Entranced we listen to the swell Of every golden note. And marvel at such melody From such a tiny throat. But lo! one morning to the wood The saint of music came And taught her people to sing, for hark! He still repeats her name:

"Cecilia!"

A Canadian View.

From the Montreal Star.

"Our retirement paralyses the Allies," gleefully asserts a German despatch. Not quite so sure of the little short of breath trying to catch up, perhaps.

From the San Francisco Chronicle.

A pet garden snake last night saved Ah Tuck, an aged Chinese gardener, from being burned to death in his home at 783 Seventeenth street. A truck was awakened from a sound sleep by a sharp snap across the face. He found his home in flames.

"I thought him whelp him," said Ah Tuck, who is being treated for severe burns. "I wake up, fire all round. Snake him come here," indicating his hat arm.

According to Ah, the snake when it discovered the fire crawled on the bed, curled itself around his arm, and using its tail as a whip, struck him in the face until he awakened.

A CITIZEN'S ARMY.

Why the Volunteer System Would Be Ineffective and Unsafe.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: There seems to be much confusion of thought in regard to what really is the democratic plan for national defense. We are constantly told that the "volunteer system" is that plan; in spite of its disastrous failure in England, where it resulted in sending to the front, massed together, the most eager, the most enthusiastically patriotic men of the nation. They should of course have been distributed among the millions who later were to be called to the colors, either as officers or as individual maintainers of a beneficent patriotic campaign.

The volunteer system in America would mean, for instance, at this present moment, the drafting of our West from St. Louis to Duluth of those young men who are not of German first or German at all, but only and altogether the defense of our ideals and principles as a free nation. Clearly the well organized German American element would remain behind, reputedly millions strong in Turn Verneis and Wanger Verneis, to vote according to their emotions, and control the situation. Would this seem fair or safe?

Again, only a universal service plan will reach fairly the whole population in our metropolises. Why should the great crowd of foreign born or poorly Americanized be left without the wholesome experience of patriotic discipline? Why should a magnificent organization like the Squadrons be to the front as a unit when its members could be of so much greater use distributed throughout the mass of young men who have had less training and are less likely to understand the American way of serving their country?

Apart, then, from the relative experience of England and France, cannot all Americans clearly see that universal service, offering equal opportunities and placing equal burdens, is the only democratic method; and that adding the word "compulsory" makes it perfectly clear that a democracy cannot tolerate such a universal compulsory education, a guarantee of freedom.

W. N. GUTHRIE.

New York, April 7.

SHALL THE CLAM SWIM?